

Cancer incidence and mortality in Ardabil, the first report of an ongoing population based cancer registry in IRAN . 2004-2006

M. Babaei¹, H. Jafarzadeh¹, F. Samadi¹, R. Malekzadeh², A. Sadjadi², R. Ramazani³, M. Fallah², F. Pourfarzi¹, J. Haukka⁴, R. Didevar², B. Shokouhi¹, S. Hekmat¹, S. Aghlmandi¹

¹ *health deputy/cdc, Ardabil University of medical sciences, Shohada Ave, Ardabil provinc health canter, Cancer, Ardabil, Iran*

² *Digestive Disease Research Center (DDRC), Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Tehran, Iran*

³ *CDC, Cancer office, Health and Medical education ministry of IRAN, Tehran, Tehran, Iran*

⁴ *Data Analysis and Interpretation Group (DEA), International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, Lyon, France*

Background : Ardabil cancer registry is the first ongoing population based cancer registry in Iran that has been established in 2003 with collaboration of International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Digestive Diseases Research Center (DDRC) of Tehran University and Ardabil University of medical sciences. Ardabil province is located in northwest of Iran . The total population of Ardabil Province , according to the 2006 census, is 1228155.

Method : Data on all newly diagnosed cancer cases, permanent residents of Ardabil province, in the years between 2004 and 2006 were actively collected. Some Ardabil cases that had been diagnosed initially in other states were included to the database. CanReg4 software was used for data entry and data was checked with IARC check program. Incidence rate and ASR has been calculated according to the years observed, gender and topography site. The data of cancer related death were obtained from the comprehensive death registry system of Ardabil province and had been compared with cancer registry data.

Results : trough the 3 years duration more than 4300 new cases was registered (mean age, 59.98 \pm 17.8). Diagnosis of cancer was based on histopathology in 69%, clinical investigation 8%, Clinical only 5% and death certification only (DCO) in 18% of cases. The top 5 cancers in males (excluding skin cancer) according to the calculated ASR were stomach (51.1), esophagus (19.8), Bladder (12.9), Lung and bronchus (10.7) and colon and rectum (9.5); in females, these were stomach (24.4), esophagus (19.8), breast (11.9), colon and rectum (7.3) and CNS tumors (6.8). According to death registration data about 15% of all causes of death were cancer and upper GI cancers contained more than 43% of cancer related death in Ardabil .

Conclusion : Upper GI cancers in Ardabil have the highest incidence and mortality rates in Iran .

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